

Whereas students are not routinely receiving effective fire safety education throughout their entire college careers;

Whereas it is vital to educate future generations in the United States about the importance of fire safety to help ensure the safety of young people during their college years and beyond; and

Whereas by educating a generation of adults about fire safety, future loss of life from fires may be significantly reduced: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2007 as “Campus Fire Safety Month”; and

(2) encourages administrators of institutions of higher education and municipalities—

(A) to provide educational programs about fire safety to all students during “Campus Fire Safety Month” and throughout the school year;

(B) to evaluate the level of fire safety being provided in both on- and off-campus student housing; and

(C) to take the necessary steps to ensure fire-safe living environments through fire safety education, installation of fire suppression and detection systems, and the development and enforcement of applicable codes relating to fire safety.

NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDER APPRECIATION DAY

The resolution (S. Res. 215) designating September 25, 2007, as “National First Responder Appreciation Day,” was considered and agreed to. The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 215

Whereas millions of Americans have benefited from the courageous service of first responders across the Nation;

Whereas the police, fire, emergency medical service, and public health personnel (commonly known as “first responders”) work devotedly and selflessly on behalf of the people of this Nation, regardless of the peril or hazard to themselves;

Whereas in emergency situations, first responders carry out the critical role of protecting and ensuring public safety;

Whereas the men and women who bravely serve as first responders have found themselves on the front lines of homeland defense in the war against terrorism;

Whereas first responders are called upon in the event of a natural disaster, such as the tornadoes in Florida and the blizzard in Colorado in December 2006, the wildfires in the West in 2007, and the flooding in the Northeast in April 2007;

Whereas the critical role of first responders was witnessed in the aftermath of the mass shooting at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, when the collaborative effort of police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians to secure the campus, rescue students from danger, treat the injured, and transport victims to local hospitals undoubtedly saved the lives of many students and faculty;

Whereas 670,000 police officers, 1,100,000 firefighters, and 891,000 emergency medical technicians risk their lives every day to make our communities safe;

Whereas these 670,000 sworn police officers from Federal, State, tribal, city, and county law enforcement agencies protect lives and property, detect and prevent crimes, uphold the law, and ensure justice;

Whereas these 1,100,000 firefighters, both volunteer and career, provide fire suppression, emergency medical services, search and rescue, hazardous materials response, response to terrorism, and critical fire prevention and safety education;

Whereas the 891,000 emergency medical professionals in the United States respond to and treat a variety of life-threatening emergencies, from cardiac and respiratory arrest to traumatic injuries;

Whereas these 2,661,000 “first responders” make personal sacrifices to protect our communities, as was witnessed on September 11, 2001, and in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and as is witnessed every day in cities and towns across America;

Whereas according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, a total of 1,649 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty during the past 10 years, an average of 1 death every 53 hours or 165 per year, and 145 law enforcement officers were killed in 2006;

Whereas, according to the United States Fire Administration, from 1996 through 2005 over 1500 firefighters were killed in the line of duty, and tens of thousands were injured;

Whereas 4 in 5 medics are injured on the job, more than 1 in 2 (52 percent) have been assaulted by a patient and 1 in 2 (50 percent) have been exposed to an infectious disease, and emergency medical service personnel in the United States have an estimated fatality rate of 12.7 per 100,000 workers, more than twice the national average;

Whereas most emergency medical service personnel deaths in the line of duty occur in ambulance accidents;

Whereas thousands of first responders have made the ultimate sacrifice;

Whereas, in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, America’s firefighters, law enforcement officers, and emergency medical workers were universally recognized for the sacrifices they made on that tragic day, and should be honored each year as these tragic events are remembered;

Whereas there currently exists no national day to honor the brave men and women of the first responder community, who give so much of themselves for the sake of others; and

Whereas these men and women by their patriotic service and their dedicated efforts have earned the gratitude of Congress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 25, 2007, as “National First Responder Appreciation Day” to honor and celebrate the contributions and sacrifices made by all first responders in the United States.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 2366

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 2366 has been received from the House and is at the desk. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2366) to reauthorize the veterans entrepreneurial development program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 107; that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

David James Gribbin IV, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Transportation.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

The Senator from Nevada.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM ACT OF 2007

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I could do a little bit of business, and I will yield to the distinguished Senator from Delaware.

I was going to ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 1639, the immigration legislation, at a time to be determined by the majority leader following consultation with the Republican leader. However, I am advised there would be an objection from the Republican side, so I am not going to ask for that unanimous consent.

Therefore, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 208, S. 1639, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.